He also requested that orders might be issued for the speedy execution of some of the works, which were already sanctioned by the Government, such as the improvements to the Arattukadavu-Thodiyur channel, and the deepening of the Parayankari river. Steps should also be taken to blast the Kollakadavu rock and render navigation through the river safe.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

55. Agricultural needs of the Vaikam taluk.

Mr. P. C. Krishna Pillai (Member, Vaikam taluk) said that over 50,00 parahs of paddy lands were being flooded every year during the harvest season a two out of the three crops failed. Since the construction of the Valianapuzha bu in 1062, the water which used to find its outlet through the river escaped into t neighbouring fields for want of proper drainage channels. He requested that Valianapuzha bund might be cut open or at least lowered so as to allow the surpl water to flow off. If neither of the courses suggested was feasible, it was nec sary to deepen and improve certain canals for draining the surplus water. T canals to be improved were the Kanian thodu, the Vallayil thodu, the Anchumu thodu, the Thevalakad thodu, the Perumparackal thodu, the Poochakal thodu, the can through the Vettikadmuk, and the one from the Thekke thodu to Ithippuzha. Th people were prepared to pay any cess which the Government might fix by way o interest on the outlay or even the whole cost of the improvement of the canals. He therefore requested that the matter might receive early attention.

The Member also requested that a manure depot should be opened in th taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. As regards the manure depot, there is one now a Shertalay. The needs of the Vaikam taluk have to be met from that depot, until one is opened at Vaikam itself.

56. Agricultural needs of the Changanachery taluk.

Mr. K. Kochukunju Kurup (Member, Changanachery taluk) said that, in the interests of the ryots of the taluk, the question of the improvement of the Kut tapuzha thodu and the Chalakkal thodu was pressed on the attention of the Govern ment at several of the previous sessions of the Assembly, but nothing substantia was done so far towards the improvement of those canals. The Member invited the early attention of the Government to the matter.

Another matter of importance was the cutting open of the bund across t Manimala river, called Cheriyil muttu. Many lakhs of parahs of paddy fields in the Ambalapuzha and Changanachery taluks were rendered less fertile owing to the obstruction to the direct flow of water on account of that bund. He prayed that the question of the opening of the bund might be re-considered, and if that was not feasible, that a broad and strong culvert might be constructed in lieu of the present bund. The people were prepared to meet the cost of its construction.

He next referred to the unworkability of Section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation, III of 1072, as the Division Peishkar alone could dispose of cases under it. That took a long time and the agriculturists were put to serious inconvenience. The Member requested that the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries might be empowered to hear and dispose of cases under the section.

Dewan.—Have you any objection to the Tahsildar being empowered to dispose of cases under the section?

Member.—No, Sir. But it would be better if the Director could be empowered.

Dewan.—This question will be considered. There may be inconveniences in empowering the Director of Agriculture to dispose of those cases.

The Member continued and said that bunds across certain canals to prevent the inrush of brackish water into the fields used to be constructed but no attention was paid by the Government to the matter in recent years. He requested that

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a new section might be added to the Irrigation Regulation enforcing the practice. The ryots should be encouraged to use artificial manure by showing its results in model farms in the locality or in the fields of some of the ryots.

He then complained about the encroachments, by the owners of the neighbouring fields, upon the channels useful for the cultivation of the surrounding area.

Dewan's reply.—Orders have been issued to the Division Peishkars to remove all the encroachments on irrigation canals and I understand that action is being taken by them. The other points mentioned by the Member are noted.

57. Agricultural needs of the Kunnatnad taluk.

Mr. Eravi Narayana Panikkar (Member, Kunnatnad taluk) said that the benefit of the Agricultural Department had not yet reached the ryots of the Kunnatnad taluk. A large area in the taluk was left uncultivated. If the department were to advise the ryots as to the kinds of seeds that would yield a good crop in those areas, a greater portion of the taluk could have been brought under cultivation. The irrigation tanks in the taluk were out of repair for very many years and had therefore become less useful for irrigating wet lands. Funds should be allotted to the Agricultural Department for the improvement of those tanks. The Chief Engineer should also be asked to see that water from the Periyar anicut did not flow into the cultivated paddy fields of the taluk when there were rains on the hills. The water now destroyed their crops very often. The ryots might be permitted, on a system of free passes, to remove from the neighbouring forests green manure and agricultural implements. He prayed that a manure depot and an agricultural farm might be opened at Perumbavur.

Dewan.—A manure depot has been opened at Muvattupuzha to serve the ryots of the Muvattupuzha and Kunnatnad taluks.

The Member continued and said that many varieties of cattle diseases were prevalent in the locality. A veterinary hospital was therefore necessary at Perumbavur.

Dewan's reply.—The Government have sanctioned the opening of a veterinary dispensary at Perumbavur. The Director of Agriculture says that within a week the dispensary will be opened there. The other points are noted.

58. Desirability of directing an Agricultural Sub-Inspector to stay at Alangad for three months every year.

Mr. N. Atchuthan Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Alwaye) said that no improved methods of cultivation were followed by the ryots of the taluk. They were ignorant of the use of manures and the way to apply them. If the Government were not prepared to open a demonstration farm at Alwaye, the people would be satisfied if an Agricultural Sub-Inspector would go to the place at the time of cultivation and advise them on the use of particular varieties of manure for particular kinds of soil. The cultivation season began in the months of Chingam, Dhanu and Medam, and during those months the ryots required the advice of the Sub-Inspector. The Member also complained that seed-bulls were never sent to the taluk for covering cows.

Dewan's reply.—There are officers of the Agricultural Department at Parur and Perumbavur, each ten miles from Alwaye. The Director of Agriculture will be asked to arrange for either of these officers visiting the taluk occasionally. The number of seed-bulls in the department is small and it is not possible to send them to all parts of the State simultaneously. Their number is being gradually increased.

59. Agricultural irrigation in the State, with special reference to the Quilon and Kottayam Divisions.

Mr. P. E. Govinda Menon (Member, Parur taluk) said that more than two-thirds of the population of Travancore depended mainly on agriculture for their livelihood, while the grain produced could maintain only about 30% of the people. The value of rice and paddy imported in 1090 was for that reason more than

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